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Concerns raised by many over ‘violent’ political rhetoric

ALEXANDRA CAMEJO
Asst. News Director

Less than 24 hours before she was shot by a gunman in Tucson, Arizona, Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, a Democrat, wrote an email to a Kentucky Republican Secretary of State Trey Grayson conveying her longing for ways to “tone our rhetoric and partisanship down.”

Nearly a month since the Jan. 8 shooting, which left 14 dead, including Giffords, her case has become a national concern in the political arena.

Suggestions that aggressive rhetoric provoked the 22-year-old shooter, Jared Loughner, to act out a generated debate over its use by news media outlets, politicians, and political activists.

The most specific and publicized instance involved a graphic posted by former Vice Presidential candidate, Sarah Palin, on her website placing crosshairs on each House Democrat that voted for health care reform, which included Rep. Giffords of Arizona. While it was posted months ago, it sparked a national conversation over the common-place of violent rhetoric within political discourse and how influential it was to Loughner.

“Partisan politics carried to extremes can poison democracy. The cure is for the electorate to shun the most partisan politicians,” said Thomas Breslin, chair of the Faculty Senate and professor of International Relations.

“Of course the rhetoric is too harsh. That’s saying it mildly. Did it result, directly or indirectly, in the Arizona shooting or other acts of violence? We’ll never know for sure,” said Maricel Cigales, associate chair of the Psychology department.

Arguments from Democrats and Republicans alike have developed sentiments amongst some that overly divided politics can only lead to danger. "Partisan politics carried to extremes can poison democracy. The cure is for the electorate to shun the most partisan politicians," said Thomas Breslin, chair of the Faculty Senate and professor of International Relations.

Stress, etiquette and competition were some of the topics covered at a professionalism lecture on Thursday, February 3, at the College of Law.

The event, titled “Managing Professional & Personal Crisis,” and speakers included Michael Cohen, executive director of Florida Lawyers Assistance, and Dr. Cheryl S. Nowell, director of the Counseling and Psychological Services Center.

Florida Lawyers Assistance was created by the Florida Supreme Court to help attorneys impaired because of drugs, alcohol or psychological conditions. Rather than taking these problems as being “moral issues,” the organization’s stance is that they be acknowledged as treatable illnesses.

A main issue addressed in the lecture was the stress suffered by numerous law students and practicing lawyers.

“Studies show that students are already stressed before they get..."
Marathon Man Ends Streak of 365 in 365 Days

The very thought of running a single marathon is enough to cause most people to break out in a nervous sweat.

Unless you’re Stefano Engels. This weekend the Belgian runner set a world record by completing 365 marathons in a row. The Belgian athlete—accurately dubbed “Marathon Man”—ended his fitness feat in Barcelona, Spain, on Saturday, after pounding roads across Europe and the U.S.

Engels has covered 9,569 miles on foot since setting off from his hometown of Ghent on Feb. 5, 2010.

require the University to raise $70 million, according to Moll.

The SEAS building would include more interdisciplinary studies, according to Moll.

An example would be a class on Anthropology and Environmental studies relate.

Also, a larger variety of courses offered at BBC would help students living near the area so these students would not have to take a trip to the Modesto Maidique Campus.

This would allow students to take classes closer to where they live.

The performance report Moll designed outlining his goals states another hope is to “increase activities that encourage environmental stewardship and support sustainable practices.”

The Adopt-A-Tree program provides homew owners residing in the Miami-Dade county area with two trees a year.

If they choose, they may instead donate them to BBC.

According to Moll, a couple hundred trees have been donated thus far.

In addition to attempting to accomplish these goals for the campus, Moll lectures a Lodging Operations and Control course on Thursdays from 12:30 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. in room 260 of the hospitality building.

The course teaches students how to maximize sales of hotels and reduce costs of delivering those sales and increase revenues by department.

According to Moll, he formed these goals with Moll, said Moll, “Every day, in every way, we are working to make the Biscayne Bay Campus a better place to learn and grow.”

Moll hopes to increase BBC activities
MEN’S BASKETBALL

Late lead blown in final seconds

JACKSON WOLOK
Staff Writer

FIU led nearly the entire game until FAU’s Brett Royster scored a layup with 4.2 seconds left in the game, ruining any chances of a Golden Panther upset.

FIU fell to rival FAU in a 73-72 heartbreaking loss on the road in Boca Raton on Feb. 5.

“With four seconds to go, having played the game we just played, it never should have gotten to that,” coach Isabel Thomas said.

The Golden Panthers came out in the first half firing away from beyond the arc, and after threes from Phil Gary, Jeremy Allen and Dominique Ferguson they found themselves quickly up on the Owls 9-0 just three minutes into the game.

“We work at shooting the basketball every day and we try to make sure our players take shots that they’re comfortable with,” Thomas said. “During the start of the game they had comfortable looks and they knocked them down.”

In the first half, 24 of FIU’s 35 points came from beyond the arc, but what was even more impressive was their effort on the defensive end of the ball.

They limited FAU to just 26 points on 45 percent shooting from the field and forced nine turnovers, leading to 15 points off of turnovers. The guard combination of Phil Taylor, who played 33 minutes, and Gary counteracted the tremendous guards the Owls have in Alex Tucker and Raymond Taylor. Although FIU (9-14, 4-7 SBC) could never push their lead higher than 11, to their credit they never let the lead slip away from them either.

Taylor took control of the game in the last five minutes of the half, scoring nine straight to keep the lead. When it looked like FAU was getting ready to take the lead at 28-27 with 3:38 remaining, the freshman hit a long range three and got fouled on the next three he took which he made one of his free throws to put them 32-27. The half ended with FIU leading 35-29.

In the second half, FIU maintained a 8 to 12 point lead over FAU (18-7, 10-1 SBC) for a majority of the time, despite Ferguson getting his fourth foul with 16:43 to play.

After taking 12 three-pointers in the first half, they only managed to take two in the second as FAU tightened up on defense, making sure FIU did not have any opportunities. The lack of scoring from deep and poor defense halfway through was the cause of seeing their 12 point lead at 9:36 fall to just one at 5:59 remaining.

The outcome would boil down to the last minute of play, when the Golden Panthers once again could not find a way to finish what they started.

The Golden Panthers had a seven-point lead with 1:10 remaining but FAU had them right where they wanted them.

MEN’S, page 4

MEN’S BASKETBALL

FIU fans have a lot to learn from FAU

L was “Bury the Burrow in red” at the Oxley Center, one of FAU’s many promotional nights as a sea of 2,904 fans dressed in red tailgated and attended the rivalry game against FIU.

It always ceases to amaze that the school an hour north from here can draw more fans for a big rivalry game than FIU.

Florida Atlantic, a far superior team to the Golden Panthers (and many other Sun Belt teams) on the court this season, stole a game that they had no business winning on Feb. 5. In a game where FIU led for 39 minutes and 55 seconds, a game-winning layup by FAU’s Brett Royster destroyed any chances of an upset.

After the buzzer sounded, the sold-out arena rushed the court, ringing the “Taylor Victory Bell,” another new tradition by the rival school. The Owls may not have deserved to win the game, but their fans certainly deserved a chance to celebrate a big win. Unlike FIU, the school in Boca has their share of faithful fans, whether it’s for football or basketball.

That’s just not the kind of school spirit you find here in Miami.

FANS, page 4

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Golden Panthers extend streak with win over Owls

RICO ALBARRACIN
Asst. Sports Director

For the Golden Panthers to continue on their current winning streak, they would have to jump over a significant hurdle: A cross-town rival.

FIU overcame the hurdle, as they went into Boca Raton, winning 60-53 against FAU on Feb 6. Jerica Coley recorded her fifth consecutive game double-digit game, as she led all scorers with 18 points while adding four rebounds, four assists, and four steals. Fina Mansare joined Coley offensively with 14 points and seven rebounds. Senior Michelle Gonzalez also added 11 points to help FIU (11-14, SBC 6-5) secure their fourth consecutive victory.

One of the keys to victory for the Golden Panthers was their free-throw shooting, as Cindy Ruso’s squad were a perfect 11-of-11 from the free-throw line. Along with the free-throw shooting, FIU was able to force FAU (6-16, SBC 3-8) to commit 20 turnovers, which the Golden Panthers took advantage of by scoring 23 points off of the turnovers.

The Golden Panthers jumped out to a 10-3 lead in the first three minutes. The Owls fought back to make it a three-point game, as the Golden Panthers hung on to a 10-7 lead. FIU would again push the pace the game by going on an 8-2 run, capped by Coley’s three-point play with 10:51 remaining to make it 18-9.

The Golden Panthers held a 16-point lead with 6:23 remaining in the half after Mansare hit a jumper. Gonzalez finished the half with free throws to give FIU a 33-23 lead at halftime. Rival FAU stormed back by opening the half with an 8-0 run, led by a pair of three-point shots from Takia Brooks and April Goins to cut the deficit to 33-31 with 17:25. The Owls took their first and only lead of the game at 13:55, but it was short lived as Mansare gave the FIU lead once again to spark FIU on a 10-0 run.

The Owls cut the lead to 53-49 with 3:13 to go, but Coley finished off the Owls’ comeback when she hit from downtown to ice the game and secure a 60-53 win.

The Panthers will look to extend their winning streak as they host the University of Louisiana-Lafayette (10-13, SBC 3-7) on Wed, Feb 9. The Ragin’ Cajuns are currently in fifth place in the West division of the SBC, averaging

WOMEN’S, page 4

Michelle Gonzalez [above] scored 11 points in victory over Florida Atlantic.
Golden Panthers have dropped seven of last eight

**MEN’S, page 3**

The FIU defense could not hold up as the Owls nailed two consecutive three-pointers to stay alive and with 30 seconds left, FIU had the ball with a three-point lead. The Owls opted not to foul but rather let FIU run out the shot clock. Taylor missed a three-pointer with the shot clock winding down as DeJuan Wright saw the rebound bobble out of his hands go right to Raymond Taylor of FAU, who was immediately fouled by Gury.

Taylor would make both free throws and with 14 seconds left to cut the lead back to one with FIU ready to inbound. Before FAU could inbound the ball, the Owls decided to foul Gury and send him to the line for two.

Gury, a 66 percent shooter from the charity stripe, missed both free throws. Off the second miss, FAU’s Alex Tucker took the ball the length of the court and found Brett Royster for an easy layup giving them Owls their only lead of the game. FIU’s last chance -- a DeJuan Wright full court heave -- was not to be, as the Golden Panthers once again lost a game that they could have won get away from them.

Free throws hurt them the most as they shot 11 out of 18 in the game. Even though after the game Royster was quoted saying it was the loudest the arena has been all year, Thomas did not make that an excuse for the poor performance.

“I’d like to tell you that it played a big role, but we’ve been in places where the crowd wasn’t as noisy and we missed them then,” Thomas said.

“I’m sure that it’s going to be a very difficult loss for FIU and Isiah [Thomas] because they had this game and outplayed us for 39 minutes,” FAU coach Mike Jarvis said. “I give them a ton of credit for the way they tried to win this game.”

**WOMEN’S, page 3**

Lately, and usually, FIU has struggled to pull a decent crowd to their home games. This season, FIU has averaged 1,152 fans in attendance at the U.S. Century Bank Arena, bad enough to rank them near the bottom of the Belt schools.

This season alone, FAU has averaged in their past three games -- and they don’t have a Hall of Fame NBA player as their head coach. In most cases, it would be understandable if one were to tell that FAU is having their worst season in years and on the verge of clinching the conference -- but that doesn’t cut it.

FIU fans barely showed up when their football team clinched its first conference crown against Arkansas State. According to reports, 14,588 people may have attended the game. There were plenty of empty chairs in the student section that night.

Despite being ranked last in home attendance, FIU is currently ranked first in attendance for road games, averaging 3,613 per away game.

The marketing and promotions department has shown that their promotional strategies have not been up to par, at least compared to other Sun Belt schools.

This season alone, FAU has had a “white-out,” “blue-out” and “red-out” nights during home games, including their last home game against FIU. During those three giveaways, FAU has drawn an average of 2,679 fans for each game.

Similar to the rival school, FIU held a “black-out” night against Florida State on Nov. 18. It’s been the lone promotional giveaway this school has had, outside of free string bags.

The result of their only promotional night -- 4,167 fans, which was a season-high.

If that many fans came to watch FIU that night, then why not have more promotional nights?

It’s a shame, but the FIU faithful shouldn’t go to games based on promotional nights. When your school has an Isiah Thomas coaching the team, that should be more than enough of a reason to show support to your home team.

So when FAU takes the trip down I-95 south on Feb. 19, the FIU fanatics (if there are any) should at least challenge FAU’s attendance for the first meeting between the two teams this season. This fan base has yet to prove that they deserve a 12-time NBA All-Star as their head coach.

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LIFE!

AND THE CROWN GOES TO...

Top Left: The 2010 Miss FIU winner Stephanie Jimenez, 2011 winner Ana Perez, Homecoming Queen Cecily Arias and Jasmy Garbalosa, Public Relations Chair for Miss FIU, pose after the pageant. Bottom Left: Brianna Ortiz, the winner of Best Interview, performs during the talent portion of the pageant. Right: Mr. FIU winner Robbie Valls and the 2010 Miss FIU winner Stephanie Jimenez present contestants during the show. Photos by Laura Pacchioni.

Art student gets style inspiration from film and nature

Jennifer Suarez is a recent transfer to the University from New York City and she brought her ukulele and eclectic fashion sense with her from the Big Apple.

THE BEACON: WHAT GOT YOU INTERESTED IN FASHION?

Jennifer Suarez: I’ve always kind of had a bit of a creative background. I went to a fashion high school kind of, I went to DASH, the Design and Architecture Senior High in the Design District. I was a film major but most of my best friends were in fashion and we would go to stores and thrift stores and I just always picked that up. It’s a good creative outlet and I always had a knack for it. Also, my parents dress up and have infinite amounts of shoes so my whole family is like that.

THE BEACON: WHERE DO YOU LIKE TO GO SHOPPING IN MIAMI?

Jennifer Suarez: I always pick things up from different places like American Apparel and Urban Outfitters and an assortment of thrift stores like Douglas Gardens, which is like my second home. I got this [handbag] there for five dollars.

THE BEACON: HOW DOES MIAMI INFLUENCE YOUR FASHION SENSE?

Jennifer Suarez: In New York, I tried to dress anti-weather so I dress colorful enough here because you can find it more often in stores. I also play [music] shows, which is an opportunity to dress nicely.

THE BEACON: WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR INSPIRATION?

Jennifer Suarez: Birds, friends, movies and magazines. As far as fashion, I really like Wes Anderson films like The Royal Tenenbaum where you always find an eclectic collection of colors. I really like old French films. Actually no, old Italian films have really good fashion [too].

THE BEACON: CAN YOU LIVE WITHOUT FASHION?

Jennifer Suarez: I feel like I can say I can live without fashion, but I always find myself destroying my closet and trying on a million things. I’m a creature of habit. [Even when there is no one there], you always try to dress to impress in a certain sense.

IN STITCHES

Who is she?

Name: Jennifer Suarez
Major: Art
Year: Junior

What’s she wearing?

- Turban: Vintage
- Tunic: Vintage
- Boots: Urban Outfitters

FASHION STATS

Who is she?
Name: Jennifer Suarez
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IN STITCHES

COLUMNIST

ESRA ERDOGAN

IN STITCHES

COLUMNIST

ESRA ERDOGAN

IN STITCHES

COLUMNIST

ESRA ERDOGAN
Indie artist to perform in GC Ballrooms

SPC PRESENTS: JARED MAHONE LIVET AT FIU

• Time: 6:00 p.m.
• When: 02/09/11
• Where: GC Ballrooms

Jared Mahone has been compared to pop artist Jack Johnson by critics. He is best known for his beat boxing skills.

Mahone's style brings performing to the next level by using a combination of sounds and rhythms. Jared Mahone was picked through The National Association for Campus Activities, NACA. SPC and Campus life are behind the booking of Mahone. To them, his talents stood out and landed him a spot at Florida International University as part of his 86 college national tour. Mahone is using the tour to test out his new music and encourages fans to give feedback through his website, JaredMahone.com. Mahone's music can be found on iTunes. His first and only album is, That Cityscape. Songs include, "Hometown Girl," "Somebody Knows," "Catch My Breath," "Eventually" and "Fast Asleep." It was released in 2007. Apart from his album release, Mahone was previously undertaking a "Mixtape Project" in 2010. The challenge was to write one song every week for a year. Mahone would then post the songs each week on his website. Mahone says he saw the project as a way to include his fans in his love of writing. From this, fans can choose the top songs to be included in his next album. While he did not meet the goal, the project became an ongoing process and he will continue until the 52-song quota is met. Fans can check out the songs he has written so far and still vote on their favorites on his website.

SPC has designed the concert to be like a "dinner and show" to differentiate it from their other concert events. This dinner and show is aimed to entertain and provide students with an opportunity to wipe their minds clear with music. Food and drinks are free, and everyone is welcome. "Everyone is sure to have a great time. Free food will be served, including lasagna," said Suarez.

Food for Thought

Gables Diner serves up a homemade-quality weekly brunch menu

I have a confession to make: I am one of those crazies that will gladly eat breakfast for dinner. It’s something about the overall comforting, at-home feeling that breakfast seems to give me that will make me choose eggs and grits over conventional lunch or dinner food any day.

With this being said, it can be assumed that I am always on the lookout for a brunch opportunity, an excuse to eat pancakes for lunch.

Thankfully, an out-of-town guest (and fellow breakfast enthusiast), who will we call Mr. Harris, discovered a local spot and decided to share it with me.

On the way to our destination, Mr. Harris raved about Gables Diner, 2320 Galiano St. a South Florida staple that serves brunch from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Since Mr. Harris was the guest of honor, he insisted that we take full advantage of it during Superbowl weekend, and I was more than happy to oblige. Upon arriving, I was pleasantly surprised to see that the restaurant is small but cozy, with a warm eclectic take on the usual diner set-up with plenty of window seat booths.

On Saturday, I decided to try their take on the classic, all-American breakfast, namely the Stacked Eggs which included two fried eggs, sausage patty, kielbasa slice, French toast and a surprise side of home fries.

When my food arrived, I was happy to see the generous portion and, upon tasting it, very pleased with the quality of the food matched up with the quantity.

Oftentimes when I order French toast it has a slightly raw taste, as if it isn’t cooked through, and needs to be masked with syrup to be bearable.

Not so this time. It had a light cinnamon-sugar crust, was chewy on the inside, and barely needed syrup. Also, the home fries were seasoned and took on the earthy-sweet flavor of the onions and peppers they were sauteed with. Combine with the hickory-flavored sausage and the familiar taste of a well-made fried egg, this breakfast had a homemade quality that could compete with that of my own mother’s cooking.

We returned the next day for more, where I decided to try their Philly Open-Face Omlette, which was loaded with thin strips of tenderloin steak, cheddar and jack cheeses, sliced tomatoes, sliced red onions and green peppers. A side of cheese grits completed the meal.

Once again, I was impressed with the homemade quality of their food, the dish made good use of the tenderloin to offset the mild sweetness of the onions with the fresh, slightly astringent taste of the tomatoes and peppers.

Even so, the real star was the cheesy grits. I was a little concerned to see that they were molded into a triangle-in-fact, it slightly resembled half of a grilled cheese sandwich. Upon tasting them, all of my apprehensions were dispelled. The outer crust gave way to a creamy middle with the flavors of cheddar melding with a very mild sweetness that reflected the corn-based Southern favorite.

I highly doubt I will eat grits any other way from now on. As wonderful as the food was, the wait staff at Gables Diner, while prompt, could use a refresher course in customer service. In both instances, the servers didn’t even tell us their names and had a gruff demeanor.

Furthermore, they had a tendency to disappear, making it difficult to call them if something was amiss.

Saying that Mr. Harris cleaned his plate on both days isn’t enough to tell you how good breakfast was. The brunch at Gables Diner was so good that my mother, who is not a big fan of breakfast food, is now a convert. Hopefully, upon trying it, you too can join the brunch movement.

Food for Thought is a bi-weekly column on food. Look for it every other Wednesday.

Reviewers are not compensated or rewarded for favorable reviews.
Block scheduling lacks flexibility

KELLY MALAMIRI
Contributing Writer

Every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, most commuting students drive four hours each way. Students’ long drive home during rush hour may then result in more time spent outside of the classroom than in it on an average day. On Jan. 31, 2011, The Beacon published an article describing students and professors’ disappointments with the University’s change from a Monday through Thursday schedule to a Monday through Friday block schedule, which was implemented 4 years ago. Although a change to the schedule was necessary, the short classes that the new block schedule offers affect the university community in a negative manner. The block schedule was put in place to promote efficient classroom use, yet has caused professors and students to inefficiently manage time, and should be revised.

The variety of classes offered before and after the 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. block schedule time frame should be extended in order to assist in the creation of well-rounded students, which should be one of the main goals of any university. In a study conducted by Florida’s Office of Program Policy Analysis & Government Accountability, which examined the state’s universities’ usage of classrooms Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., a peak in classroom usage consistently occurred from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The OPPAGA concluded the peak was due to student work schedules and other obligations. The University, however, conducts the block schedule from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., leaving classes offered during this peak time on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays limited. The lack of variety of classes offered during these hours, which are mainly utilized by students with jobs, internship, or extra curricular obligations, holds students back by limiting them, and more options should be made available.

In the 50-minute block schedule, students are not the only ones limited. Daily routines like taking attendance, bootup equipment and opening PowerPoint presentations take a significant amount of time out of the short 50-minute class, and limit the time professors have to teach. If “time is money,” then the University as well as students paying by the credit hour simply cannot afford to encounter such delays three times a week at the beginning of every brief class.

While it is true that students may enroll in online classes, the University charges an extra $199 to take them. Such high fees are not affordable by many students who receive financial aid or pay out-of-pocket for school, eliminating this option for many. Because online courses, meant to accommodate those with full schedules, come with such hefty fees and are, therefore, unavailable to many students, it’s only equitable that more flexible options, like many various classes offered beyond the 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. workday, be available to students on campus.

In such an urban university setting in which many students work before and after school and commute to and from school, flexible class options must be made available.

Moral decline due to absence of school prayer

SHEDWIN ELASSON
Contributing Writer

Prayer in schools has not always been such a controversial topic. In fact, public schools had prayer or religious activities 200 years before the Supreme Court ruled that state mandated class prayers were unconstitutional. It was the landmark case of Engel v. Vitall in June 1962. Religion aside, prayer should be implemented in schools simply because it has useful benefits on its own.

Our school systems aren’t doing any better since the removal of prayer in schools. In fact, some may say that the situation has gotten much worse, especially in terms of school violence. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention found that 5.9 percent of students carry weapons to school with them, 78 percent have been threatened or injured on campuses nation-wide and 12.4 percent of students have been in a physical fight on school grounds at least once. The research also found that 5.3 percent of students do not go to school because they do not feel safe.

As the court outlawed prayer, the nation has been in an steady moral decline. Former Secretary of Education, William Bennett, revealed in his cultural indices that between 1960 and 1990 divorce doubled, teenage pregnancy went up 200 percent, teen suicide increased 300 percent, violent crime went up 500 percent and he maintains that there is a strong correlation between the expulsion of prayer from our schools and decline in morality.

It should be made clear that prayer has positive psychological, physical and emotional influences. Focusing on your emotions by praying can help relieve stress, calm fears and reduce anxiety. When cardiologist Randolph Byrd, did his famous study on the effects of prayer in April 1982 through May 1983, he found that praying on a regular basis can have a positive effect on the psyche of an individual by stabilizing their mood, giving them a feeling of well-being, improving how they interact with others and allowing them to conduct themselves. When it comes to children and how they behave in school, prayer and other positive influences it holds can have enormous constructive effects on their outlook and those around them.

The establishment clause is a popular rebuttal for those who are against prayer in schools. It is the first of several pronounce- ments in the Constitution and it states that Congress “shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion.” If this is the case there should be no prayer in schools.

In fact, some may say that the situation has gotten much worse since the religious resolutions of the Supreme Court. Engel v. Vitall was the first time the Supreme Court removed religious resolutions from the schools. The Supreme Court’s push for fiscal conservatism and religion found that 5.9 percent of students carry weapons to school with them, 78 percent have been threatened or injured on campuses nation-wide and 12.4 percent of students have been in a physical fight on school grounds at least once. The research also found that 5.3 percent of students do not go to school because they do not feel safe.

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Steven Moll discusses his plans for the campus

NADRA MARBROUK  Staff Writer

Although student is still a role that Steven Moll plays while at the University, the position he was recently appointed to allows him to set in motion plans to improve the Biscayne Bay Campus and to further the goals of University President Mark Rosenberg.

“FIU is an FIU,” said Moll. “I came here when FIU was two years old as a student. I’ve gotten my Bachelor’s, my Masters, and I’m working on my PhD. I’ve taught here for 34 years,” said Moll, who was appointed to be BBC’s vice provost on Jan. 4. “If there’s anything I can do to make the University a better place for students to learn, then I am more than happy to work as hard as I can to make it happen.”

Moll would like to enhance the campus and its services through his 2010-2011 performance goals strengthened with his belief that there is a desire to have a strong financial base, become more concerned with the environment on campus and engage the campus with the College of Medicine.

“Moll is also considering an improvement in customer service on BBC. Customer service covers people who interact with the students including workers in the Financial Aid office and cashiers. His plan would be to offer more customer service training and professional development provided for the faculty and the staff across the campus. A BBC customer service survey will be used to analyze the results in order to further enhance improvement. These surveys would ask questions based on what kind of services students received, as they will be allowed to rate the service ranging from poor to excellent. It would ask about services provided in Financial Aid, the Library, including services provided in each major. There is room for continual improvement in all areas the time for constant growth,” Moll said.

Another goal is to increase the private contributions made to BBC and to search for more outside sources of funding.

“The support we receive from the state of Florida continues to go down. 60 percent of what it cost to operate a University used to be provided to us,” Moll said. “Today it is less than 40 percent. We must get funding privately, otherwise we won’t have any!”

Increasing grant activity would assist the campus. Moll at the moment does not know the precise number of how many grants would he like to receive.

Another goal to help funding involves increasing the number of Circle of Friends members and private donations made. In 2009 the Circle of Friends was designed to expand FIU’s reach into the community and raise necessary funds. The members are from the community and are invited to a series of events organized by the BBC Vice Provost. Their goal is to improve the quality of life on BBC.

The money given through the circle of friends is used to fund events on campus, elective classes, trips, and activities that enhance BBC students’ life. Membership begins at $100.

This would help strengthen financial base for BBC. Increasing the financial base is a top priority goal due to the decrease of the financial assistance state universities are receiving from the state legislature.

“The whole purpose of what we do in setting our annual goals is to continuously improve the University.” Moll said. Moll plans to work with the Alumni Foundation, community leaders and anyone else willing to benefit the University.

Another priority is to better promote the Quality Enhancement Plan at BBC. QEP is a strategy designed by the University to improve the quality of higher education and enhance student learning.

Moll would like to increase the amount of Global Learning courses offered. This would create a larger variety of courses for the students to choose from and take a greater interest in and for the students to find more GL courses that relate to their individual interests. There would also be an increase in the number of events promoting the concept of Global Learning.

A student with an associate in arts from Miami-Dade College transferring to FIU is still required to take two Global Learning courses in their major.

Increasing the number of GL courses offered on campus, promotes QEP according to Moll.

Moll would also like to eventually place another building on BBC for the School of Environment, Arts and Society. Because the building would have a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification, its ecological footprint would be much smaller. This would make it a “green” building in the sense of how much energy it actually uses. This building would include classes and offices and would be a subdivision of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Building the SEAS building would reach into the community and raise necessary funds. The members are from the community and are invited to a series of events organized by the BBC Vice Provost. Their goal is to improve the quality of life on BBC.

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Building the SEAS building would

‘Top campus leaders’ learn leadership skills at summit

MATT PORCHE  Contributing Writer

The eighth annual Leadership Summit was hosted on Feb. 5 at the Biscayne Bay Campus in the Wolfe University Center. The annual gathering of leadership conference allowed student leaders, as well as students who were interested in becoming leaders, room to network and learn leadership skills.

Throughout the summit, students were exposed to a number of leadership topics, issues and learning points all in one event, said Bronwen Bares, associate director for the Women’s Center and a member of the summit’s planning committee.

Bares also believes the summit is a starting point for the University’s emerging leaders.

“We have some of the top campus leaders here at the summit, and this makes this a great place for networking,” Bares said.

The student leaders who were hosting the sessions during the summit had to first submit their presentations to the planning committee for acceptance, according to Bares.

Cynthia Salazar, a graduate student majoring in higher education administration, hosted a session about the new faces of leadership.

“I think students will be motivated to continue their education and develop skills to become the next leaders of the future,” Salazar said.

Beverly Darlymple, who directs the University’s Center for Leadership and Services, chairwoman of the summit’s committee, explained this event brings together student leaders from both campuses to allow them to build on their skills and expand their knowledge as well as community leaders, faculty, and alumnae to present the workshops.

University President Mark Rosenberg and several leaders of the University made appearances at the summit, along with this year’s keynote speaker, Trish Downing.

Trish Downing earned her master’s degree in sports management, and was heavily involved in sports. After a cycling accident in 2000, she was left paralyzed from the chest down. Although she is now in a wheelchair, Downing continues to compete as a paraplegic athlete, as she is the second female wheelchair racer, and the first female paraplegic, to complete an Ironman distance triathlon. Downing also takes time to motivate students to be leaders and achieve their goals.

At the start of the summit, Downing talked to students about overcoming obstacles in their lives.

“Even when I had no idea of what was ahead of me, I didn’t give up,” Downing said as she spoke about the difficulty she faced when she first began competing as a paraplegic. “One of the things I realized is that I have a passion, and if I didn’t have a passion for what I do, I wouldn’t have made it where I am today. That passion you strive for will give you something to hold on to.”

After speaking to the students in the theater, Downing later spoke to students in a session she hosted in the WUC ballrooms where she talked about being a leader by finding balance in life.

Muffy Barbaran, a junior majoring in women’s studies and sociology, attended a session which explained how to make campus clubs more marketable, as she is involved in the Women’s Studies Student Association.

“What I learned from (Downing) is to never give up, and to persevere, because you never know what life has to offer,” Barbaran said.

“I like how the sessions are interactive and they ask questions. Here, I have learned no matter what background you are from, you can still be a leader,” Kerwing Rivas, a sophomore majoring in business administration, said.

10-day old hunger strike

A leader of Cuba’s Ladies in White opposition group urged a colleague to end a 10-day old hunger strike she launched to demand freedom for her jailed husband.

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